



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/657,673

09/05/2003

Amos Nussinovitch

85189-5100

2188

28765

7590

07/12/2006

WINSTON & STRAWN LLP  
1700 K STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

NAFF, DAVID M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1651

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/657,673

Applicant(s)

NUSSINOVITCH ET AL

Examiner

David M. Naff

Art Unit

1651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 22-40 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 9/5/03 & 2/4/04 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/5/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

Art Unit: 1651

**DETAILED ACTION**

Claims in the application are 1-40.

A response of 3/29/06 to a restriction requirement of 3/7/06 amended claims 22, 31 and 36, and elected Group I claims 1-21 without  
5 traverse.

Claims 22-40 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 3/29/06.

10 The documents listed on form 1449 of 9/5/03 have been lined through and not considered unless listed on form 892 since form 1449 became illegible when scanned into the computer. Another form 1449 should be submitted. Any documents listed on form 1449 that are also listed on form 892 should be omitted from form 1449.

15 ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

20 (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 7-13 and 16- 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)  
25 as being anticipated by Marois et al (4,818,530).

The claims are drawn to solid cellular hydrocolloid carriers comprising dried hydrocolloid beads comprising viable microorganisms

Art Unit: 1651

entrapped therein, and the dried beads have a residual moisture content of no more than 20%.

Marois et al disclose dried alginate pellets containing a fungi such as *Trichoderma viride* (Example 13) that controls soilborne diseases. The pellets have been dried to about 10% moisture (col 5, line 13).

The dried pellets containing a microorganism of Marois et al are the same as the solid cellular hydrocolloid carriers presently claimed.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35

Art Unit: 1651

U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marois et al in view of Sudoma (4,956,295).

5       The claims require the dried beads to be obtained by freeze drying. The hydrocolloid may contain a cryoprotectant.

Sudoma discloses (col 5, lines 20-25) freeze drying in the presence of a cryoprotectant to provide a storage stable bacteria composition without being refrigerated (col 3, line 24).

10       When producing the dried beads of Marois et al, it would have been obvious to use freeze drying and a cryoprotectant as suggested by Sudoma to obtain dried beads stable during storage without refrigeration.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

15       Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marois et al in view of Elliott et al (5,030,562) or Pusey et al (4,764,371).

The claims require the microorganisms in the beads to be bacteria capable of controlling plant pathogens.

20       Elliott et al and Pusey et al disclose bacteria that control plant pathogens.

It would have been obvious to replace the fungi that control soilborne disease in the pellets of Marois et al with bacteria that controls a plant pathogen as suggested by Elliott et al or Pusey et al

Art Unit: 1651

to obtain the function of the bacteria for controlling a plant pathogen.


**Conclusion**

The patents listed on form 892 but not applied are to make of  
5 record additional prior art relating to the present invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David M. Naff whose telephone number is 571-272-0920. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30-6:00.

10 If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mike Wityshyn can be reached on 571-272-0926. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be  
15 obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see [http://pair-](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov)  
20 [direct.uspto.gov](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov). Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
David M. Naff  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1651

Application/Control Number: 10/657,673

Page 6

Art Unit: 1651

DMN

6/26/06